



Testimony of Ashley Zane
Government Affairs Associate, CBIA
Before the Environment Committee
Hartford, CT
March 7, 2022
Testifying in Support of:

**HB 5291: AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDING FOR BIKEWAYS, GREENWAYS AND
RECREATIONAL TRAILS.**

My name is Ashley Zane and I am a Government Affairs Associate for the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. CBIA is Connecticut's largest business organization, with thousands of member companies, small and large, representing a diverse range of industries from across the state. Ninety-five percent of CBIA member companies have 100 or fewer employees.

I am here in support of HB 5291, An Act Authorizing Bonding for Bikeways, Greenways and Recreational Trails. CBIA supports increasing available bond funding to invest in these measures to create a greener Connecticut as well as being a tool to recruit the next generation of employees.

Many individuals in the next generation of the workforce are looking for alternative means of transportation and it plays a significant role in deciding where to live and work. Data collected from the Federal Highway Administration showed that in 2018 approximately 61% of 18-year-olds in the U.S. had a driver's license, down from 80% percent in 1983. The number of 16-year-olds with licenses decreased from 46% to 25% in the same period. Ensuring safe alternatives to driving a personal vehicle like bikeways can be a valuable recruitment tool for companies.

Increasing bikeways expands access to careers and opportunities to individuals who cannot afford a car. Owning a car comes with significant costs, however, accessing a bikeway has significantly less costs. We need to ensure that these options are safe and expansive enough to create a more inclusive workforce and help reduce barriers to entry into the workforce.

CBIA thanks the committee for raising this concept and I look forward to working with you throughout the session.